

CLAIMS

1. A virtual image album system comprising:
5 a card comprising a substrate having a memory device associated therewith, and indicia formed on said substrate, said indicia being representative of image data, and function data stored within said memory device and associated with said indicia; and
a reader for said card, said reader comprising a touch sensitive membrane arranged to overlay said card and through which said indicia are visible, said reader being
10 adapted to output specific said function data associated with a user selected one of said indicia, thereby to reference specific said image data.
2. A virtual image album system according to claim 1, further comprising:
an image store adapted to receive said specific function data, and to output said
15 specific image data in response thereto; and
a user display adapted to receive said output specific image data from the image store, and further adapted to display the specific image data.
3. A virtual image album system according to claim 1, wherein:
20 said image data comprises video image data.
4. A virtual image album system according to claim 3, wherein:
said indicia comprise thumbnail images each being representative of a
corresponding video sequence.
- 25 5. A virtual image album system according to claim 1, wherein:
said image data comprises still-image data.
6. A virtual image album system according to claim 5, wherein:

said indicia comprise thumbnail images each representative of a corresponding still-image.

7. A virtual image album system according to claim 2, wherein:

5 the image store is located remotely from the user, and the specific said image data is down-loaded to the user display over the network in accordance with said user selected one of said indicia.

8. A virtual image album system according to claim 2, wherein:

10 the image store is one of a CD-ROM and DVD disc located in proximity to the user, and the specific said image data is provided to the user display via a local data connection.

9. A control template for a virtual image album system, said template
15 comprising:

an electronic card formed of a substrate having associated therewith a memory device;

a plurality of indicia being representative of image data disposed on the substrate; and

20 function data associated with the indicia stored within said memory device.

10. A reader device for a control template interface card, said device comprising:

25 a connector to connect said interface card formed of a substrate, said substrate disposes a plurality of indicia being representative of image data

a substantially transparent touch sensitive membrane arranged to overlay said interface card, and

a processor for reading function data associated with the indicia stored within a memory device in said interface card and outputs said function data to a external device to refer specific said image data.

5 11. A service providing device for a virtual image album system, said device comprising:

 a processor for storing digital images that were digitized from photographic film in an image store and storing function data to access to said image store into a memory device in a control card.

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 12. A service providing device according to claim 11, wherein said image store is one of a CD-ROM and a DVD disc located in proximity to the user, and a specific image data that user designated using said card is provided to the user display via a local data connection.

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 13. A service providing device according to claim 11, wherein said image store is located remotely from the user, and a specific image data that user designated using said card is down- loaded to the user display over a network..

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 14. A virtual image album system according to claim 1, wherein said function data is a command and memory address to down-load said specific image data to a user display over a network from an image store that is located remotely from user.

 15. A control template according to claim 9, wherein said function data is a
25 command and memory address to down-load a specific image data to a user display over a network from an image store that is located remotely from user.

16. A reader device according to claim 10, wherein said function data is a command and memory address to down-load a specific image data to a user display over a network from an image store that is located remotely from user.

5 17. A service providing device according to claim 11, wherein said function data is a command and memory address to down-load a specific image data to a user display over a network from said image store that is located remotely from user.

18. A virtual image album system according to claim 1, wherein said
10 function data is a command and memory address to read a specific image data to a user display from an image store that is located in proximity to the user.

19. A control template according to claim 9, wherein said function data is a
15 command and memory address to read a specific image data to a user display from an image store that is located in proximity to the user.

20. A reader device according to claim 10, wherein said function data is a
20 command and memory address to read a specific image data to a user display from an image store that is located in proximity to the user.

21. A service providing device according to claim 11, wherein said function
25 data is a command and memory address to read a specific image data to a user display from an image store that is located in proximity to the user.